Surprise checks at Various Railway Canteens

457. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Railway Vigilance Squad had recently conducted surprise checks at various canteens run by Railways in Delhi and found several discrepancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to tone up its functioning so that the qualitative items are available in various catering units in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some discrepancies regarding cleanliness and poor quality of catering items in addition to improper maintenance of the records were detected.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Constant efforts are made by the Railways to improve the quality of catering services, raw materials, standard of hygiene and up-to-date maintenance of records. Besides, checks have been intensified.

Menace of Touts Dealing in Railway Tickets

458. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the menace of touts deeling in Railway tickets throughout the country which has become a problem to the public;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railway officials are also engaged with the touts for extraneous benefits as has been revealed in the Press by conducting raids by the senior Railway officials;

(c) if so, the number of raids so conducted in each zone during the last one year and the current year;

(d) whether it is proposed to amend the Railway Act to make the trial of touts selling Railway tickets more effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some incidents have come to notice.

(c) A Statement is Attached, *{see below)*

(d) and (e) At present, there is no proposal to amend the Railway Act. However, to check the activities of touts and anti-social elements indulging in mal practices, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigi lance Departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police personnel in and around the reservation offices and at stations. Touts/anti-social elements, thus, ap prehended are taken up under the provi sions of the Railway Act, 1989. Staff found involved in or abetting such ac tivities are suitably taken up.

Statement

Railway	1996	1997 (up to June)
Central	361	188
Eastern	819	188
Northern	153	117
N.E.	7	15
N.F.	230	140
Southern	7	7
S.C.	210	179
S.E.	64	34
Western	1394	699
Total	3245	1567